

Specific characteristics of cognitive functioning in patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma: A pilot study.

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Introduction. During the last years studies on neurocognitive impairments in patients with hematological malignancies has been presented. The importance of assessing cognitive functions when performing anti-cancer chemotherapy is becoming more evident, although qualitative objective research are rare.

Objectives. The purpose was to determine specific features of cognitive sphere in patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma in order to develop rehabilitation programs.

Methods. The pilot study included 22 patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma (12 women, mean age $30,1 \pm 8$ years). Cognitive functioning was evaluated using The Brief Assessment of Cognition in Schizophrenia (BACS), pathopsychological diagnostic methods of thinking and memory, Rorschach test (the Rorschach Comprehensive System). A qualitative analysis was conducted. Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS 22.

Results. The results of the BACS and pathopsychological diagnostic methods are shown in Figure 1.

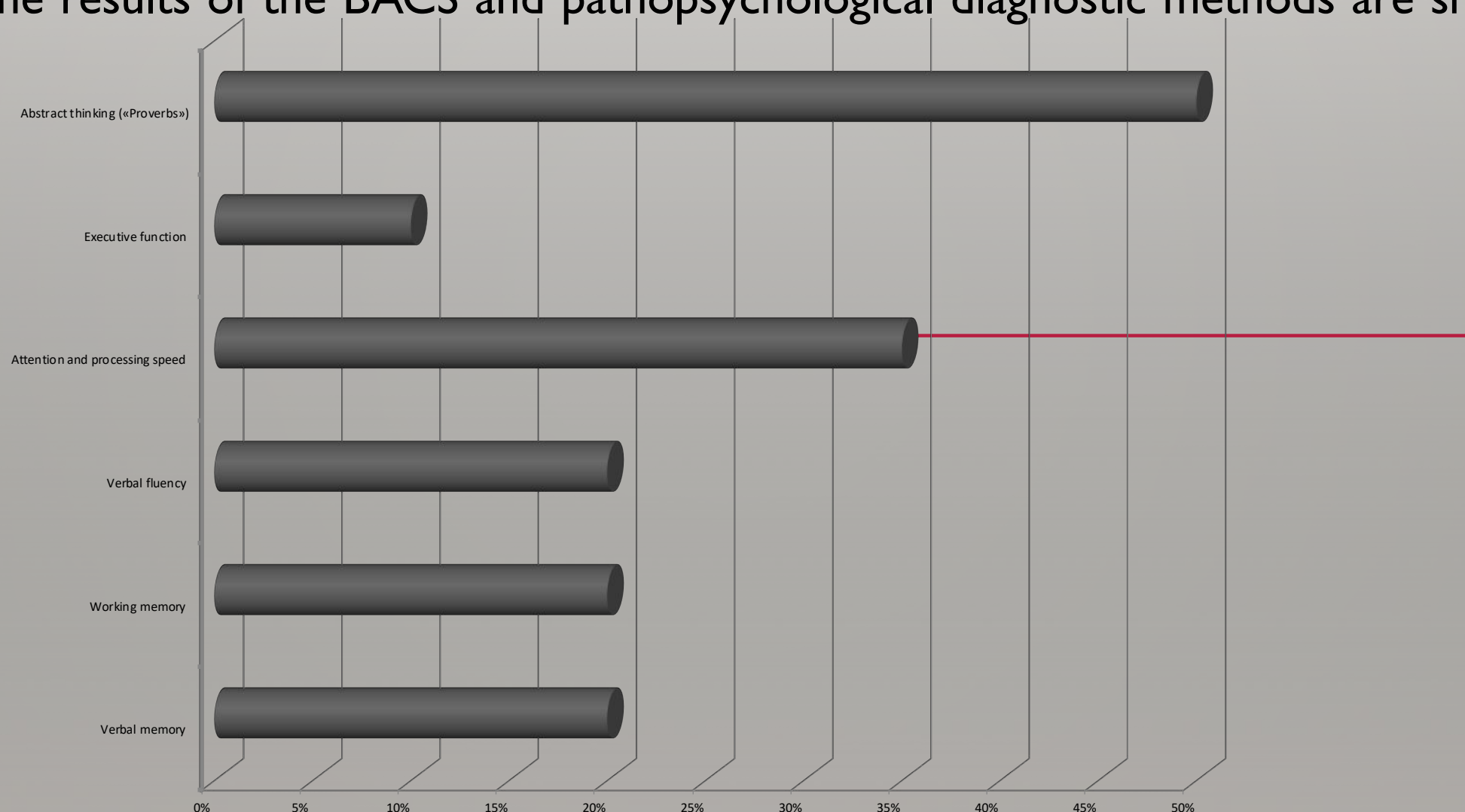


Figure 1. Percentage of patients with impairments in cognitive domains.

The results of the Rorschach revealed difficulties in the Cognitive Mediation cluster. 31% of patients are prone to perceive events and people incorrectly ($XA\% < 0.77$, $WDA\% < 0.8$). The low perceptual conventionality was found: 38% of patients gave less than four popular responses (P), the average scores of Conventional Form ($X+\%$) and Unusual Form ($Xu\%$) were 0.55 ± 0.1 and 0.27 ± 0.07 .

Conclusions. Difficulties with Attention and processing speed and Abstract thinking are more common for patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma. The accuracy and conventionality of perception should be taken into account in doctor-patient communication and awareness of disease.